FTA

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS — CIO

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...g to "hold ...e on wages,

...Soup Co. is ...ery in the organ- ...1941.

AFL Teamster raiders took still another licking from the rank and file workers at the Fruitvale, Calif., cannery when a majority voted "No" in a Taft-Hartley election that asked if they wanted the Teamsters to represent them. By voting "No" on the ballot, Fruitvale workers have kept FTA and the wage gains FTA organization has brought them. Above are shown Paul Robeson, world famous singer, singing and speaking to the workers with Hursel Alexander (left); FTA Local 50 Board member Lydia Hughes; Paul Robeson; Local 50 Business Agent Ruby Heide and FTA Vice-President Armando Ramirez.

FTA Whips Teamsters

Adding to FTA's recent string of election victories over AFL Teamsters union raiders, FTA Local 92 has just won a majority of the workers' votes at the National Starch Co. in Indianapolis, Ind.

The vote was the standard Taft-Hartley setup, with the workers voting "NO" on the proposition "Do you wish to be represented for purposes of collective bargaining by the AFL Teamsters union."

The "NO" vote meant that the workers kept their FTA union and rejected the Teamsters.

Other recent FTA victories include a majority of "NO" votes at the Walnut Growers plant in Los Angeles, Calif., the Fruitvale cannery in the San Francisco Bay Area and the American Tobacco Co. election in Charleston, S. C.

In each case a majority of the workers voted "NO" and thereby retained their FTA union.

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Teamsters Voted Down

FTA Again Choice Cannery Workers

By a clear majority of "No" votes, rank and file workers at the FTA organized cannery in Fruitvale, Calif., this week told the raiding Teamsters union officials to go peddle their company union line somewhere else.

The election was the third occasion on which Fruitvale workers expressed their opinion of AFL Teamsters officialdom, and each time the opinion has been more and more negative.

The ballot, prepared by the Taft-Hartley Labor Relations Board, asked the question: "Do you wish to be represented by the AFL Teamsters union for purposes of collective bargaining" and required a yes or no answer.

Voting "no," as a clear majority of the Fruitvale workers did, resulted in keeping the FTA which was already in the plant and in rejecting the Teamsters union pie-cards and their stooges.

The Teamsters union tried every propaganda device in the book to deceive the workers into thinking that a "No" vote meant a vote for no union. Scores of different leaflets were put out by the ALF Teamsters, each one making the lying claim that a "No" vote was a vote for no union. Incidentally, the Taft-Hartley Labor Relations Board, which is supposed to see that elections are conducted fairly, made no protest against lying propaganda of this kind.

Ganged up with the employers, the AFL Teamsters officials saw to it that scores of Teamster goons got jobs in the plant before the election, where they tried to intimidate workers into voting "Yes" instead of "No" on the ballot. The workers saw through these attempts, however, and voted "No" by a large majority.

The chief confusion in the plant, however, was caused by the Teamsters lying tale about the "No" vote meaning a vote for "no union" instead of a vote to keep the union already in the plant and to reject the Teamsters.

Commenting on the FTA victory, Local 50 Temporary Business Agent Ruby Heide said: "It is a much bigger victory than might appear because several hundred AFL-company stooges were planted in the factory.

"Many of the 'Yes' votes were also ours because the AFL Teamster propaganda to the effect that a 'No' vote was a vote for no union confused many workers."

FROM WASHINGTON

STICKS AND STONES

By C. W. FOWLER

For some months now the President of the United States and the leaders of Congress have been exchanging harsh words about each other.

Truman started it off when he called the 80th Congress—controlled by the Republicans—the "worst in history." The Republican comeback has been to the general effect of "you're another."

Perhaps a number of us are inclined to agree that both are right. Certainly the Congress that produced the Taft-Hartley act, that killed off the last remnants of economic controls, that refused to do anything about housing, health, the minimum wage and a host of other badly needed laws is fully entitled to be called the "worst in history."

And the President who appointed the toughest company lawyer he could find—Robert N. Denham—to administer the Taft-Hartley act, the President who broke the 1946 railway strike, whose Attorney-General has asked and obtained strike-breaking injunctions against a score of unions, whose own orders started the hounding of Government employes, scientists and progressive labor leaders, is also fully worthy of top honors in any name-calling contest.

When children are being badgered by their playmates, they usually cry out "sticks and stones will break my bones, but names will never hurt me."

Maybe names won't hurt—much—but the record is something else. The record has a nasty habit of sticking. Let's look at it. First, on price control.

The record here starts almost immediately after Truman became President. It was the 79th Congress, with a majority of Democrats, that repealed the excess profits tax, thereby putting a premium on profiteering.

Rationing of scores of essential foods and other goods in short supply was ended by the Truman administration. This undermined all price control and paved the way for the abolition of OPA.

Allocations of materials was ended by the Truman administration. This meant that scarce materials, especially building materials, went to speculators and profiteers and not to housing for the people.

Two years ago the Truman administration knuckled under to the meat trust and abolished price control of meat. Monopoly went absolutely unchecked. True, the Department of Justice goes through the motions of indicting some of the worst monopolies, but that's as far as it goes. Monopoly has not been curbed. Rather, it has been encouraged.

The 80th was certainly "the worst Congress in history." And President Truman, the man whose knees melt when he looks at big business but roars with fury when he looks at a striking union, has earned all the hard names labor leaders—including Philip Murray—have used on him.

The real proof that both the Republicans and the Democrats mean no good to the American people comes on these basic issues:

1. Anti-union policies—the Taft-Hartley act, including Truman's phony veto; the injunctions; the hounding of labor leaders and their unions.

2. The cost of living—the death of OPA; the ending of rationing and controls; the green light to profiteers and monopolists.

3. Civil liberties—tied in with anti-union activities; the unAmerican Committee and its smear brigades; "loyalty" oaths; the refusal to enforce the U. S. Constitution in the South.

4. And finally, the "bi-partisan" foreign policy that has produced the cold war; the $22 billion for arms; the draft; the use of troops against picket lines and the feverish preparation for a hot, shooting war.

The names are there for the calling—plenty of them. But the ballots are there for the voting on November 2. And it is this writer's conviction that the bi-partisan reactionaries of both old parties are going to get a shock when the votes are in and counted.

POLITICAL FREEDOM

The right to vote as you please is as fundamental a right as any that Americans have. Without that right, democracy goes out the window and dictatorship flies in.

This right is particularly important to workers. Not so many years ago, the boss used to tell workers how they should vote. The penalty for disobedience was loss of a man's job. In many parts of the country, in fact, such bullying still goes on.

The unions have fought this kind of intimidation for years. Many a worker's head has been broken and many a good man blacklisted in the struggle for the elementary right to go to the polls and vote according to your conscience.

That is why it is very important for union members to keep this basic American right. No one must be allowed to tell any worker how to vote or how not to vote. No punishments must be handed out for support of one candidate in an election or failure to support another.

The International Executive Board of FTA, meeting in January of this year, voted unanimously (all members present and voting) to endorse Henry Wallace for President of the U. S. A. It also supported the building of a new, independent people's political party.

The Board urged all FTA locals and other affiliates to endorse Wallace and the new party. It asked locals in turn to urge their members to similar action.

At no time did the FTA Board order the locals or the membership to endorse Wallace or any other candidate. Obviously, in a democratically organized union such as FTA, no such orders could be given.

The members of FTA's Board and the full membership of the union do not believe in trying to force people to support one candidate or oppose another.

The members of FTA do not propose to give up their right of free political choice and action to anyone, whether he be an employer, a politician or a labor leader.

That is simply not the FTA way of doing things.

TAFT-HARTLEY'S BIRTHDAY

The newspapers and the political orators are making quite a business out of the first year of the Taft-Hartley Act. According to editorials, cartoons and speeches, the worker is enjoying his greatest prosperity and his greatest happiness under this law, passed a year and a month ago.

The Taft-Hartley law has "freed" the workers from "labor bosses," the general tenor of these happy editorials goes. No longer are sturdy American workers "enslaved" by unscrupulous labor leaders—and what's more, the unions are still alive and functioning.

Let us, as Al Smith used to remark, look at the record.

The Taft-Hartley Labor Relations Board has obtained 21 injunctions since the act became law. All but two have been against unions.

The bosses have filed lawsuits totalling more than $15,000,000 against unions.

The Taft-Hartley Labor Board has accepted 662 charges filed by employers against unions. It has acted on just two percent of the charges filed by unions against bosses.

The Taft-Hartley Board has spent millions of dollars of taxpayers' money holding "union shop" elections which give the worker no real form of union shop at all, but only the right to ask the boss for a union shop. And when they get it, all the Taft-Hartley union shop requires is payment of union dues.

A number of unions rushed to sign the Taft-Hartley abdavits (of which the so-called "non-communist" oath is only a part), thinking to get NLRB services and in many cases, seeking the chance to raid other unions.

The unions that signed are complaining loudly that they were tricked. Their leaders wish—publicly—that they had not signed.

The Taft-Hartley act is an unmixed evil to all workers. The less their unions have to do with it, and with the Taft-Hartley Board, the better.

FTA NEWS

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Donald Henderson .....General President
Armando Valdes .....General Secretary-Treasurer
Vice Presidents: Lewis Bentzley, Robert Latham, Armando Ramirez — Organiz. Dir.: John Tina
C. W. Fowler .....Editor

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More than 1,500 members of unions were among 3,000 delegates to the founding convention of the Progressive Party, where Henry Wallace and Glen Taylor were nominated for President and Vice-President of the U. S. Here is a small part of the cheering crowd.

FTA Wins Wage Boost For 10,000 Campbell Workers

Wage increases up to 12.5 cents an hour for the 10,000 workers at the Campbell Soup Co. plants in Camden, N. J. and Chicago, Ill. were won by FTA Locals 80 and 194 in joint negotiations recently concluded with a new contract.

The new contract came after a series of 15 negotiating meetings held alternately in Camden and Chicago with committees from the two FTA locals and from management. It will add better than $3,000,000 a year to the workers' paychecks plus some $200,000 in retroactive pay.

Specifically, the agreement provides for a 10 cents an hour straight across the board increase, which will amount to 12.5 cents under the premium pay system; for retroactivity back to May 29 of this year; for a wage reopening clause on June 1, 1949 and for clarifying certain points on overtime pay.

The agreement expires March 1, 1950 in the Camden plant and December 1, 1949 in the Chicago plant.

Negotiations started with the usual company line of a flat refusal to give anything by way of an increase. Campbell Soup, the management representatives said firmly, was going to "hold the line"—the line on wages, that is.

The Campbell Soup Co. is the largest cannery in the world. It has been organized by FTA since 1941. Each year the same contest has taken place over a contract, and each year the union has come out with higher wages and better conditions.

In 1941, before FTA came to Campbell's, wages there averaged around 55 cents an hour. This has been increased almost 150 percent in the seven years since that time, to where it is now close to $1.50 an hour.

FTA Survey Shows

'Dangerously' Low Standards In South

The living standard of the workers in North Carolina's tobacco leaf houses and redrying plants is being dangerously worsened by the tremendous increase in the cost of living, according to the results of an FTA survey made in the state recently.

The study by the FTA Research Department covered 244 different workers and their families, all of whose work in plants in eastern North Carolina.

The average family, the survey reveals, has between four and five members and in every family two or more members work. It is the only way they can begin to make ends meet.

The average take-home pay per worker is $25.06 and the average for each family is $41.38.

The weekly food budget of each family amounts to $19.41. This is 46 percent of its total income and would swallow up 77 percent of the head of the family's paycheck.

Every family surveyed feels they are worse off today than they were a year ago. They report they buy 3.2 fewer quarts of milk, 1.4 fewer pounds of butter, 2.2 dozens of eggs and 4.3 fewer pounds of meat each week than they did a year ago.

If they had more money to spend, 99 percent of the families would buy more food, 87 percent would get more medical care, 48 percent would buy more clothing, 12 percent would use some of the money toward buying their own home, four percent would buy more fuel and four percent would buy insurance.

Practically all of the workers surveyed (99%) blame Congress for today's high prices, 81 percent blame business, one percent blame labor and none blames the farmers.

Almost everyone (99.6%) reported he would be willing to have price controls put back to bring the cost of living down and 97 percent favor rationing of scarce goods so that all may get a fair share.

In releasing the report, FTA officials said that there are about 63,000 leaf house workers in this country and that 34,300 of them work in North Carolina. About **90 percent of all leaf house workers** are found in the three states of North Carolina, Virginia and Kentucky. A large majority of the workers are Negro women.

The leaf house workers are discriminated against, too, on overtime payments. While workers in others industries receive time and one-half for all hours worked over 40 in any one week, leaf house workers must work 56 hours in each week before they receive overtime payment for 16 weeks in each calendar year.

The result is that leaf workers take home much less pay. In the R. J. Reynolds plants in Winston-Salem the union estimates that the workers lost $890,560 last year alone because of this one factor.

The union pointed out that the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has recently published a "City Worker's Family Budget" showing what it costs a city worker with a wife and two children to live on a "modest but adequate" standard of living. Comparing the city which government reports as the cheapest of the 34 surveyed, New Orleans, La., the union contends

that the North Carolina leaf tobacco workers' income falls at least $27.67 a week below the government's minimum budget.

The N. C. Department of Labor set the weekly earnings of leaf workers at $31.69 last spring. This is $26.67 under the government budget figure.

"The situation is a serious one. One which involves not only the workers but the farmers, the tobacco communities, the South and the nation as well," Robert Lathan, FTA Vice-President and himself a Winston-Salem leaf worker for more than 15 years, declared. "Congress must return to the Roosevelt program by amending the minimum wage law and eliminating the overtime exemptions which discriminate against these low paid workers.

"These things plus federal housing and health programs and the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act so that the workers through their unions can meet the employers at the bargaining table with some degree of equality must be accomplished during the next few months. Otherwise we will all soon be back where we were in the thirties," Lathan said.

FTA Wins Raise For Salmon Workers

Following up an earlier victory in the salmon canning industry of Alaska, FTA has just won a new contract covering workers in the by-product end of the industry at Ketchikan, organized by Local 237.

Outstanding gains won in the new pact included union security, with a preferential shop and an irrevocable checkoff and protection for the union against unauthorized strikes. Further union protection comes in a clause in which the employers promise not to sue the union for "any act or omission alleged to have been committed during the life of the agreement."

The wage increase amounts to a 12 cents an hour raise on the straight time hourly rate plus an 18 cent increase on overtime and 24 cents on premium time. This brings hourly wages up to a top of $1.37, plus meals and living quarters—a big item in Alaska. Where meals and board are not furnished, the workers get an allowance of $90.00 a month—an increase from the former rate of $67.50.

Changes in the termination date of the contract bring the expiration from December to the following May, which more closely coincides with the beginning of the new season.

Under the preferential shop clause, workers must be hired on the basis of seniority in the previous seasons and any new workers must be hired from those who have signed up with the union for employment.

The by-products end of the $100,000,000 Alaska salmon industry was organized by FTA last year after futile efforts had been made over a period of years to bring the plants into a union.

FTA 22 In Drive For New Contract

FTA Local 22 still holds legal bargaining rights in the huge plant of the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. (makers of Camels cigarettes) and will win a new and better contract the hard way, FTA President Donald Henderson told a mass meeting of Reynolds workers in Winston-Salem, N. C., this week.

"We didn't have a contract when we came here to start this union," Henderson told the mass meeting. "We built a strong union. Then we got the benefits."

Henderson reminded his audience of the fact that FTA has held contracts over periods of years with "even bigger" concerns than Reynolds, contracts that had been won by hard work and unity around an organizing campaign.

"But," he added, "the organizing must be done by the workers themselves, in the plants. Whenever the workers fail to do this job, conditions become worse.

Turning to the Taft-Hartley law and its effect on unions, Henderson pointed out that it does not prevent unions which refuse to go through the National Labor Relations Board from winning and holding agree-

"There's nothing in the law that prevents a union from having a contract," he said, citing not only examples of FTA organized companies that have signed with the union but many examples of other industries where the unions have not seen fit to put their members' necks in the Taft-Hartley noose.

Turning to the political campaign, Henderson said: "I have never in my life voted for a strikebreaker and I'll be damned if I'll vote for Harry Truman."

Robert Black, co-chairman of the local, introduced local publicity director John Hunt, new party candidate or Winston-Salem's county commissioner and Harvey Cox, candidate for Congress against anti-union millowner Thurmond Chatham.

Fifty-six students from six FTA locals attended the Region I Leadership Training School held in Nature Friends Camp, Pennsylvania, this summer under the direction of FTA Research and Education Director Joseph Califf. Subjects discussed for the week's period included Taft-Hartley act; stewards and grievance procedure; union building; contract enforcement; political action and wages, prices and profits.

Henderson Urges CIO

POLITICAL FREEDOM BASIS OF UNITY IN AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT

In election year 1948, the American people are challenged to stop the headlong drive of reaction against organized labor, the people's living standards and freedoms, and toward fascism, depression and war. To meet this challenge the greatest unity of labor is required in both the political and economic fields of struggle.

The basis of this unity in labor generally and in the CIO must be the complete political freedom of CIO unions, units and members to make their own election choices. This autonomy must go beyond words to vigilant and aggressive action to guarantee this freedom throughout CIO, in every union, and against any possible threat of discrimination or intimidation.

UNITY NEEDED

Special emphasis on political autonomy in CIO in 1948 is needed because our ranks are honestly divided on major questions of political choice. Such divisions must not be allowed to weaken the unity and thereby the effectiveness of the entire CIO in its collective bargaining struggle to protect and advance the welfare of CIO members.

In 1948 political differences in CIO arise because many CIO members and unions cannot go along with the reactionary bi-partisan record of the old parties and, consistent with the CIO tradition of independent political action, are giving their support to the new Progressive Party and its candidates.

For the average trade unionist it is not necessary to labor the point that the Republican Party and its candidates, Dewey and Warren, are the open and unashamed agents of the NAM and Wall Street and will carry out the program of reaction.

Significant sections of labor will not support the Democratic Party and its candidate Harry Truman in face of the clear record of combined collaboration with and inability to resist effectively the reactionary drive of Big Business aaginst the American people.

President Truman has led the way in the anti-labor pattern developed since the death of Roosevelt. In the midst of CIO's wage and strike struggle in December 1945 Truman asked for anti-labor legislation. President Murray strongly attacked Truman's proposal charging its purpose was "to weaken and ultimately destroy labor union organization. It can be but the first step for ever more savage legislation repression" and that before the arrogance of industry the Administration "yields in abject cowardice (and) seeks legislation directed against labor."

TRUMAN—STRIKEBREAKER

Again in 1946, after signing over CIO protest the anti-labor Lea and Hobbs bills, Truman proceeded to break the strikes of the railroad workers and miners and threaten the same treatment for maritime workers.

In June 1946 when the President demanded an extreme strike-busting law from Congress, President Murray wired Congressmen: "I urge you as a representative of a democratic people to reject President Truman's anti-labor and anti-democratic proposal . . ."

Since the belated and "gesture" veto of the Taft-Hartley Law in 1947, Truman has won the ttile of "Injunction Harry" by his aggressive anti-labor application of the Taft-Hartley Law and by his unrestrained issuance of strike-breaking injunctions against the miners, the railroad workers, the printers, the maritime workers, and the nation's longshoremen.

In the face of such a record, the Democratic platform plank to repeal Taft-Hartley and replace it with new legislation of uncertain content and without reference to the Norris-LaGuardia and Wagner Acts appears as a feeble last-minute political gesture.

It was Truman who raced the Republicans to be first to end wartime controls over prices which the President called the method of a "police state." It was Truman who forced the end of the Emergency Housing Program and led President Murray to protest to the President when he was forcing out Housing Expediter Wyatt: "I cannot understand why this Administration permits a fifth column agent of the old-fashioned housing interests . . . to sabotage the granting of loans to companies ready and willing to turn out in mass quantities the factory-made home . . ."

It is Truman who, after the fine words of the Civil Rights Report, permits Jim Crow to remain in America's armed forces and capital city. It was Truman's party which, without rebuke from the President, voted 122 to 34 in favor of increased appropriations for the unAmerican Activities Committee and 104 to 48 for the fascist Mundt Bill.

BRASS, BANKS, BUSINESS

It is Truman who has removed the Roosevelt liberals from his administration and replaced them constantly with men of Big Brass, Big Banks and Big Business.

It is Truman whose cold war brings peacetime compulsory military service to America and fashions the pattern and budget of militarism of America. It is Truman whose policies permit destruction of the CIO's brother unions in China and Greece and brings shame to America by failure to bring support to the struggling new nation of Israel.

No one should wonder, nor can one justly challenge the motives and sincerity of trade unionists who seek an alternative to such a candidate and such a party. Particularly the CIO, always the target of smear attacks when it has fought politically or economically against special interests, should disdain and repudiate such smear attacks now used against trade unionists who oppose Dewey and Truman and support candidates Wallace and Taylor of the Progressive Party.

The political unity of labor generally must be built to achieve maximum gains for progressive anti-Taft-Hartley members in the 81st Congress. It is to be favorably noted that the Progressive Party has followed a general policy of seeking maximum unity behind progressive candidates without regard to political label.

SUPPORT REAL LIBERALS

In scores of cases the Progressive Party is supporting candidates of other political parties, even where such candidates have not accepted the full program of the Progressive Party. For example, the support on joint Democratic and Progressive Party tickets of many candidates for Congress such as Celler, Klein, Powell, Pfeifer and Delaney in New York, and Norgard, Gallagher, Healy and Patterson in California, gives promise of increased progressive victories in November.

It is hoped that in every instance where such unity is possible by mutual concessions and respect for differing views, by both the Democratic and Progressive Parties, it will enlarge this area of collaboration.

The existence of the Progressive Party will bring out a greatly increased vote and makes possible increased progressive victories in November. Full advantage should be taken of the fact that the Progressive Party creates a genuine two-party system in heretofore one-party sections of the South, and gives a choice in many Districts such as thosein California, where Republicans have captured both Democratic and Republican nominations.

It should be the role of CIO everywhere to extend unity in political action for deefat of a maximum number of Taft-Hartley supporters.

The CIO's aim, within the framework of genuine autonomy of expression for political differences, should be to achieve that unity in our unions and in the wards and precincts of America which will assure maximum effectiveness in our collective bargaining and political struggles against the never-changing enemies of the common people of America.

Bringing back a few home truths to labor leaders who may have forgotten them, FTA President Donald Henderson told the CIO National Executive Board that political freedom of all unions and union members is the basis of labor unity.

The statement pointed out that many millions of workers were dissatisfied with the bi-partisan rooking they had taken from the Republican Congress and the Democratic President and were looking to the Progressive Party and the candidacy of Henry Wallace for a way out.

This basic right — to support parties and candidates of one's own choice — is the heart of democracy, Henderson said. Any attempt to deny it denies democracy itself.

The statement, which was presented to the CIO Board meeting and received considerable attention in the press, is on this page.

For the common man . . .

Injunction Harry . . .

Wallace Speech Hits Both Old Parties

(Following are excerpts from the Labor Day speech of Henry Wallace delivered at the convention of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers Union, CIO, which met in New York City.)

A year ago in Boston at your convention, we spoke about the crisis we were in. . . .

Where are we, a year later? How does the battle fare in the second year of Truman's Doctrine and Taft-Hartley?

We seem to be a little worse off. Reaction has gained ground and the people have lost ground.

• • •

But in a deeper sense we are better off. For with the founding of the Progressive Party we have forged a weapon to stop reaction.

The long decades during which labor had no political home are over.

I feel that we have already proved our worth in this new party. We aren't just making speeches and waiting to reap a harvest of votes on Election Day.

Here are some examples:

Wage increases—the right to vote in the South—the fight against UMT and the draft—defeat of the Mundt-Nixon Bill—negotiations to end the cold war.

I have taken the stump on all of these issues. The Progressive Party has fought them out, together with trade union, Negro organizations, and churches. . . .

American workers are skeptical about talk. But they admire this kind of action. They are judging us by our deeds, and that is why they are flocking to the Progressive Party. There were no union men marching for the Deweycrats, the Democrats or the Dixiecrats.

• • •

For even as Roosevelt was being buried, the generals and the admirals and the captains of industry and their lieutenants crept into the White House and began to destroy his work of 12 years.

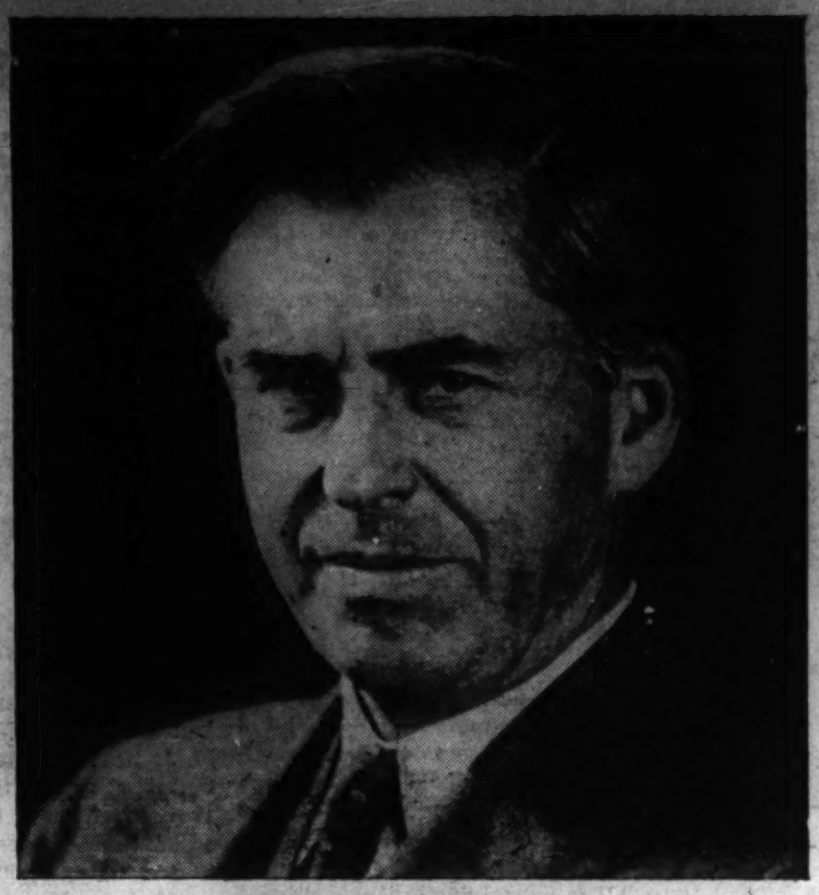
And in 1945 and 1946 labor learned with bitterness what manner of man there was to deal with in the White House. . . .

But even as labor was struggling against the first great show of strength of the big corporations in refusing a decent wage during the first postwar months, the man who rode into office on Roosevelt's platform of decent wages and labor's rights, was asking Congress for anti-strike legislation and a "cooling-off period."

• • •

Do the leaders of labor forget the pattern that was set in 1946 by the President? Do they forget that it was Truman's message to Congress—not Taft's—in 1947 that asked for anti-strike legislation—and paved the way for the Taft-Hartley Act?

And while he was disarming the unions with the power of the government, the same government was surrendering to the big corporations on prices.



Henry Wallace

I challenge those labor leaders who support Truman to give a single solitary instance of Truman's restraints in the enforcement of the Taft-Hartley Act against Labor.

And if they point to the Democratic Party platform pledge to repeal the Taft-Hartley Act, I challenge them to study its words. If they really meant to end Taft-Hartleyism, they would have pledged full restoration of the Wagner Act and the Norris-La Guardia anti-injunction act. They did not mention them.

The reactionary majority of the Democratic Party have not permitted even a campaign to restore labor's Magna Charta. Instead their platform contains vague weasel words about another labor law. Their actions and Truman's prove that at best they would substitute a new Taft-Hartley Law named after Democrats.

There is the same pattern of deception on civil rights. Behind the fine words of a civil rights report is the threat of a $25 million dollar loyalty purge and a gestapo to hound men and women from industrial plants and government jobs. Orders to end discrimination in the armed forces are nullified by the commanding officers and voted down by the Democrats and Republicans.

Fine words and bad actions are the rule for prices also.

• • •

In spite of this plain record of betrayal, there are some labor leaders who have come out in support of Truman.

But has anything really changed? Have monopoly profits ceased to increase? Have real wages stopped falling? Is Taft-Hartley enforced any differently? Has Truman removed a single financier or brass hat from his cabinet?

Of course not.

Rakes Record On Union Rights

Then why have these labor leaders jumped on the Truman bandwagon?

I think it is because they are following a policy of appeasement—which kept labor without political influence for so many decades. . . .

Why do these labor leaders appease Truman? Have they stopped fighting? Are they humbled by the power of a reactionary Government? Are they willing to accept the crumbs left over by big business?

Are they too busy feeding internal dissension and making use of Taft-Hartley for raiding fights? To what a low pass is some labor leadership come that it must feed off one another instead of meeting the challenge of millions yet unorganized?

Wherever the bi-partisan foreign policy has been most active, the trade unions have been among the first victims.

And this is only logical. Because this foreign policy is aimed at increasing worldwide profiteering of the same trusts which are profiteering at the expense of the American peopel at home.

At home the policy is named after Taft and Hartley. Abroad it is named after Truman and Marshall.

• • •

There is no need to appease either Republicans or Democrats.

For this year the workers of America have a choice, a real choice to vote for a party of their own.

Workers have a party—a broad American party—through which they can fight back against the Taft-Hartleyites.

The Progressive Party has the program for labor because it was written by labor.

On the basis of programs and actions to back them up, every worker would choose the Progressive Party.

The Democrats and Republicans try to confuse and frighten workingmen out of this logical choice.

And they lack even the cleverness of originality.

Their method is that which has been used against labor unions from the earliest time of modern industry — the hysterical cry against the red menace.

• • •

I ask those labor leaders who red-bait me today to think back a few years. I ask the leaders of the CIO to remember how they were called Soviet agents for organizing the open-shop strongholds of America. I ask them to remember how they were smeared with the red brush of the Un-American Committee when they organized to elect Roosevelt in 1944.

I ask the workers of America, regardless of their union affiliation, to learn from the bitter history of red-baiting. Turn the pages back to the 1880s, when the Knights of Labor and the American Federation of Labor led the fight for the eight-hour day. The employers crushed this fight with the cry of Anarchist, of Red, with the framed-up bomb plot. Seven men were hanged in Chicago.

Today the word is Communist instead of Anarchist—the planted bomb is an Atomic bomb. But the method is the same and the object is unchanged.

They scream of the Communist danger in order to isolate and divide the trade unions. But their object is to enslave all laboring men, regardless of the color of their ideas.

Progressive Party Platform

PEACE - FREEDOM - ABUNDANCE

I—Preamble

Three years after the end of the second world war, the drums are beating for a third. Civil liberties are being destroyed. Millions cry out for relief from unbearably high prices. The American way of life is in danger.

The root cause of this crisis is Big Business control of our economy and government.

With oil and enterprise the American people have created from their rich resources the world's greatest productive machine. This machine no longer belongs to the people. Its ownership is concentrated in the hands of a few and its product used for their enrichment.

Never before have so few owned so much at the expense of so many.

FDR's Warning

Ten years ago Franklin Delano Roosevelt warned: "The liberty of a democracy is not safe if the people tolerate the growth of private power to a point where it becomes stronger than their democratic state. That, in its essence, is fascism."

Today that private power has constituted itself an invisible government which pulls the strings of its puppet Republican and Democratic parties.

For generations the common man of America has resisted this concentration of economic and political power in the hands of a few. The greatest of America's political leaders have led the people into battle against the money power, the railroads, the trusts, the economic royalists.

We of the Progressive Party are the present-day descendants of these people's movements and fighting leaders.

Throughout our history new parties have arisen when the old parties have betrayed the people. As Jefferson headed a new party to defeat the reactionaries of his day, and as Lincoln led a new party to victory over the slave-owners, so today the people, inspired and led by Henry Wallace, have created a new party to secure peace, freedom and abundance.

II—Principles

The Progressive Party is born in the deep conviction that the national wealth and natural resources of our country belong to the people who inhabit it and must be employed in their behalf; that freedom and opportunity must be secured equally to all; that the brotherhood of man can be achieved and the scourge of war ended.

The Progressive Party holds that basic to the organization of world peace is a return to the purpose of Franklin D. Roosevelt to seek areas of international agreement rather than disagreement. It was his conviction that within the framework of the United Nations different social and economic systems can and must live together. If peace is to be achieved capitalist United States and communist Russia must establish good relations and work together.

The Progressive Party holds that it is the first duty of a just government to secure for all the people, regardless of race, creed, color, sex, national background, political belief, or station in life, the inalienable rights proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence and guaranteed by the Bill of Rights. The government must actively protect these rights against the encroachments of public and private agencies.

The Progressive Party holds that a just government must use its powers to promote an abundant life for its people. This is the basic idea of Franklin D. Roosevelt's Economic Bill of Rights. Heretofore every attempt to give effect to this principle has failed because Big Business dominates the key sectors of the economy. Anti-trust laws and government regulation cannot break this domination. Therefore the people, through their democratically elected representatives, must take control of the main levers of the economic system. Public ownership of these levers will enable the people to plan the use of their productive resources so as to develop the limitless potential of modern technology and to create a true American Commonwealth free from poverty and insecurity.

III—Program

(The following is a summary of the Party platform's detailed planks. Space would not permit quoting the entire document in full.)

"The Progressive Party believes that enduring peace among the peoples of the world community is possible only through world law. Continued anarchy among nations in the atomic age threatens our civilization and humanity itself with annihilation.

The following specific measures to realize this program are proposed in the platform:

1. Repeal of the peacetime draft and the rejection of UMT.

2. Immediate cessation of the piling up of armament expenditures beyond reasonable peacetime requirements.

3. Repudiation of the Truman Doctrine and an end to military and economic intervention in support of reactionary and fascist regimes; and severance of diplomatic and economic relations with Franco Spain.

4. Abandonment of military bases designed to encircle and intimidate other nations.

5. Repeal of the provisions of the National Security Act which are mobilizing the nation for war, preparing a labor draft, and organizing a monopoly-militarist dictatorship.

The platform calls for controls to reduce and keep down the prices of food, shelter, clothing, and other essentials of life, and basic materials. "Such control," it declares, "should squeeze out excessive profits, provide for the payment of subsidies to farmers wherever necessary to maintain fair agricultural prices, and allocate materials and goods in short supply."

The Platform calls for "strengthening of rent controls and protection against evictions."

Repeal Taft-Hartley Act

Declaring "monopoly's grip on the economy must be broken if democracy is to survive," the platform calls for placing the largest banks, railroads, merchant marine, the electric power and gas industries and "industries primarily dependent upon government funds and government purchases" under public ownership. It pledges to strengthen and enforce the anti-trust laws, calls for abolition of discriminatory freight rates against the South and West, and Federal control of Tideland oil resources.

Holding "that every American who works for a living has an inalienable right to an income sufficient to provide him and his family with a high standard of living," the Progressive Party demands:

1. Repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act and the reinstatement of the principles of the Wagner and Norris-LaGuardia Acts.

2. Establishment of collective bargaining machinery for Federal employees, and the right of collective bargaining in publicly owned industries.

3. Support of wage increases for wage and salary earners, including Federal employees, a minimum wage of $1 an hour, extension of the Fair Labor Standards Act to cover all workers, equal pay for equal work, and elimination of regional wage differentials.

4. Opposition to government strike-breaking through seizure.

5. Enactment and enforcement of Federal and State health and safety standards for all workers.

6. Amendment of the Railway Labor Act to provide railway workers with the right to strike, collective bargaining, and amendment of the Railway Retirement Act to provide pensions of $100 after 30 years service or at 60 years of age. Legislation is also requested to improve living standards of white collar workers and professional employees.

Inclusion of agricultural workers and farm processing workers under the protection of social and labor legislation.

FTA Kicks Out Company Union

Company inspired attempts by a so-called "independent" union to take bargaining rights away from an FTA local have been smashed by a decision of the Natl. Labor Relations Board ruling the "Seafood Workers Union" out of the picture in the salmon packing industry.

The decision came in spite of the fact that FTA, by vote of a union-wide conference held after passage of the Taft-Hartley law, does not bow to the redtape affidavits of the Board.

The decision flatly stated that the "Seafood Workers Union" is company dominated and therefore cannot represent the salmon workers.

Basing its order on the fact that company supervisors were acting as recruiting agents for the "Seafood Workers Union," the Board said:

"In view of the foregoing, we are of the opinion that the SWU is incapable of serving as the bargaining representative of the employes involved herein.

"From the time it was conceived, persons who occupy supervisory positions with the employer-members have taken a prominent part in its affairs.

"We have frequently stated that we will not accord a place on the ballot in an election conducted by the Board to a labor organization whose memberships are solicited by supervisors, or which is in any other way not free of managerial control."

Act To Protect Workers Funds

Legal action restraining Pete Walburg, a member of Local 912 of the AFL Teamsters from spending any money belonging to Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Workers Union, Local 78 FTA-CIO, was taken today.

The restraining order was issued by Judge H. G. Jorgensen at the request of Local 78 FTA-CIO, represented by Attorney Bertram Edises. The order enjoins Walburg and two John Does from "directly or indirectly or by any means or device whatsoever, disposing of, transferring or spending any funds in their or under their control, belonging to Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Workers Union, Local 78 ,or which belonged to said Local 78 on the 15th day of July, 1948, and particularly. and part of these sums which on the 14th and 15th days of July, 1948, or thereabouts, were appropriated or set aside at meetings of Local 78 as a purported barbecue or welfare fund or both."

The action was instituted by FTA-CIO when statements were madethat a free barbecue would be held on Labor Day by Local 912 of the Teamsters Union and that the cost of the barbecue would be borne out of funds taken from the Local 78 FTA-CIO treasury by expelled former officials of Local 78 FTA-CIO, now working for Local 912 of the AFL Teamsters.

Armando Ramirez, Administrator of Local 78 FTA-CIO, stated, "Local 78 FTA-CIO is holding a Labor Day celebration at the request of the members who are voluntarily paying for it. We have no intention of allowing the Teamsters to misuse money belonging to the workers who are members of Local 78 FTA-CIO."

FTA Wins Overtime Arbitration Ruling

Over 200 workers at the Campbell Soup Co. plant in Camden, N. J., have just won an important overtime ruling through arbitration sought by FTA Local 80, which holds the contract with the huge canning plant.

The issue was taken to arbitration after the company had gone back on an assurance that overtime would be paid for all work performed over 40 hours, even though the work week began either on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday. The company took the position that overtime payment for Saturday and Sunday work satisfied all claims for overtime for work over 40 hours during such a week.

In his decision, the arbitrator said: "The company employs people for Saturday and Sunday only and pays them overtime rates for such work. Obviously it could not request people whose work week begins, for instance, on Wednesday to work on Saturday and Sunday at straight time alongside strictly Saturday and Sunday workers who were receiving premium rates.

"I therefore find the contentions of the union valid. . . ."

Pot Blames The Kettle While Inflation Boils

As the Presidential campaign goes into high gear, the Republicans and the Democrats seek to pin the blame for skyrocketing living costs upon each other. The fact is that they are both responsib'e for the postwar inflation. A look at the record for the past three years proves this conclusively.

The postwar inflation is primarily the result of the drive of business and industry for superprofits. Immediately after the war ended, the Truman administration repealed the wartime excess profits tax, thus removing an important curb on profiteering.

This unwarranted action provided an incentive for price raising and profiteering, since starting with Jan. 1, 1946, business and industry were permitted to retain 62c out of every dollar made in excessive profits, instead of the 14½c they were allowed to keep during the war. Repeal of the excess profits tax was all the more inexcusable, since corporate profits after taxes during the war—even with the excess profits tax—were more than twice the pre-war average.

Other essential controls were also prematurely abolished by the administration. Rationing was dropped on a number of basic items a few months after the war ended and soon after all foods except sugar and a few other items were derationed. The premature ending of rationing undermined price control and promoted black market prices.

Allocations were also eliminated prematurely right after the war ended. This disrupted distribution pipelines, encouraged the hoarding of scarce materials and stimulated postwar gray markets in steel and other critical materials.

Two Do-Nothing Congresses

The record shows that the administration and the Republicans were both responsib'e for unleashing the postwar inflation. Both the Democratic Congress of 1945 and 1946 and the Republican Congress of 1947 and 1948 did nothing to protect the people from the ravages of inflation. It is only now in the midst of an election campaign that they have suddenly become inflation-conscious and blame each other for high prices.

All during the past year the Republicans refused to take any action to hold down prices. Instead, last December, they gave the big monopolies authority to set up their own system of allocations, thereby giving them a free hand to squeeze out smaller businesses and to enforce monopoly prices.

The administration's record is hardly any better. Two years ago it succumbed to the blackmail of the meat trust, which went on strike for higher prices. Instead of cracking down, the administration abolished price control on meat.

A year ago the administration denounced price control as a "police state measure." It has also consistently failed to do anything about enforcing the inadequate rent control law that is now on the statute books.

Now the administration has begun to whoop it up for price controls. But it is significant that it has failed to propose concrete action against the major source of the inflation—profiteering by the big corporations. It has also failed to use the anti-trust laws to prosecute the profiteering of the meat, dairy and other food trusts.

The Republicans try to make high farm prices the villain of the piece. But farmers are getting a decreasing share of the food dollars of consumers while the food trust is getting an increasing share. Basic farm prices have fallen sharply since last February, but retail food prices keep shooting right up.

Inflation will continue unchecked, since neither the administration nor the Republicans will do anything to stop the profiteering of big business. Workers, who are tightening up their belts because of high prices, might keep this in mind as they listen to the campaign accusations and counter-accusations of the campaign orators of the administration and the Republicans.

FTA Wins 18-43c Raises

Raises of 18 to 43 cents per hour featured new FTA-won contracts ratified by five FTA locals in the Alaska salmon canning industry.

These are the highest wage increases won by any group of workers employed in the industry under the 26 agreements negotiated with various unions this year. The increase covers resident workers in the 25 canneries operating this year around the southeastern regions of the territory.

All hourly workers received a straight-time 18 cent increase plus raises ranging from 34 to 43 cents per hour on overtime and premium time rates.

Though the industry put up a stiff fight against it, the unions retained the seasonal wage guarantee, fixed this year at $337.50 for the season. This guarantee was won despite the fact that the salmon season has been limited by the government to only 23 days fishing, due to the short salmon run. However, the industry is expected to reap a $100,000,000 pack in spite of the short season.

Some of the highest increases were won in jobs that were formerly among the lowest paid, including those on the patching table, where 25 cents was won on straight time and 22 to 29 cents for premium and overtime.

The union also improved its security clauses and secured protection from suits caused by unauthorized strikes.

Wallace On Radio

Henry Wallace will answer the people's questions in a series of NBC radio network broadcasts beginning Sept. 13 and running for the next seven Monday nights, at 10:30 p. m. EST.

Any listener can send any question to Wallace at his headquarters, 39 Park Ave., New York 16, N. Y. Remember the time: NBC network, Mondays at 10:30 p. m. EST.

Among unions which have refused to put their members' necks in the Taft-Hartley Labor Board noose are the United Steelworkers (900,000 members), the United Electrical Workers (700,000) and the United Mineworkers (600,000).

Though they make up almost 80 percent of the U. S. population, wage workers have only two percent of the Representatives in Congress. Eight out of every 10 Congressmen are employers or lawyers who work for employers.

Reynolds Tobacco Firm Robs Aged of Pensions

Nothing is too small—or too hard on workers who have given a lifetime to the company—for the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. (Camels cigarettes) when it comes to turning an extra penny of profits.

Latest gyp trick from the biggest tobacco factory in the world is an announcement that beginning immediately, the retirement age for workers will be raised from 65 to 70 years.

As FTA Local 22 points out, "Government figures from the U. S. Office of Vital Statistics, used by insurance companies, show that today the age that the average man can expect to reach is between 64 and 65. If you live long enough to draw a Reynolds pension, it will be strictly an accident."

FTA's Quaker Oats Joint Council meets to consider wage problems under contract reopening clauses in Cedar Rapids, Ia. Shown are (front row) Louis Jedlicka, FTA Local 110; Donald Martin, Local 125; Lee Lashley, Local 19; Paul Gardner, recently elected Council Coordinator in place of Armando Valdes, and Norman Belling. Back row: Kenneth Wernts, Local 120; Brownie Amborski, 125; Wesley Kopecky, 110, and Mervin Myers, 110.

FTA Signs Libby Pact In Chicago

FTA Local 194 has just signed a new contract with the Blue Island, Ill. (near Chicago) plant of the Libby, McNeill and Libby cannery chain, bringing wage raises and other benefits to the workers.

A straight across the board increase of nine cents was won, plus correction of some inequities amounting to 12 to 20 cents an hour.

Checkoff also features the new contract, plus security against lawsuits and retroactivity to June 6.

Members of the Wholesale and Warehouse Workers Union (CIO) have voted 4,859 to 841 against having their officers sign Taft-Hartley act affidavits.

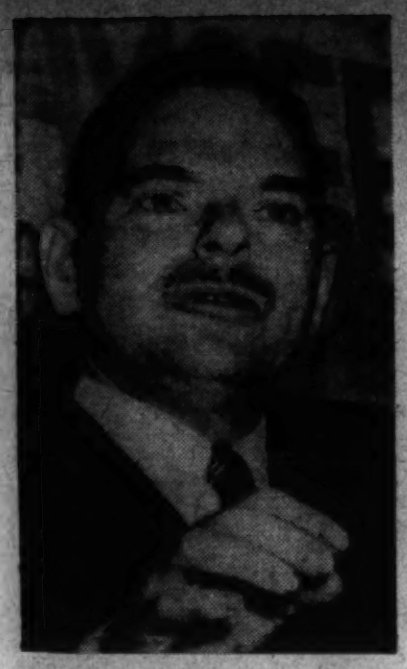
ABC Radio Chain Settles FTA Suit

One of the nation's biggest radio networks—the American Broadcasting Co.—has settled a lawsuit brought against it by FTA. Settlement was made out of court.

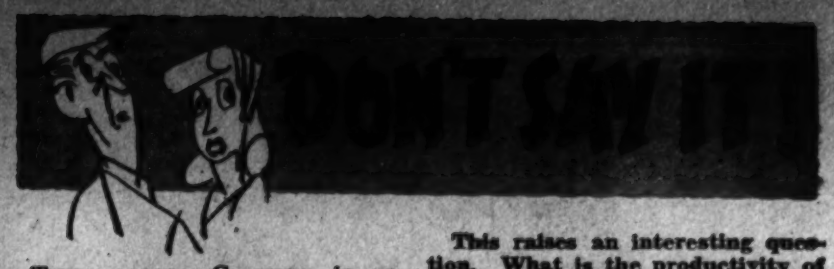
The suit was brought in 1946 when ABC arbitrarily ruled a speech by CIO President Philip Murray off the air at the last moment. The speech was to have been made on behalf of northern California cannery workers who were seeking an NLRB vote to be certified in the FTA union.

Though the radio time had been contracted and paid for, and the speech accepted by the station, it was ruled off the air 15 minutes before program time by a vice-president of FTA who decided it was "not in the public interest"—despite the fact that 60,000 cannery workers were involved in the campaign.

When I started to work here I got $7.00 a week and if it wasn't for the union you would have the same opportunity too!



Likes Taft-Hartley . . . this little man is Thomas E. Dewey. He says (or his stooges say) the workers ought to be glad for the Taft-Hartley law. Seems they don't know what's good for 'em if they aren't.



Truman says Congress is responsible for high prices. Congress says he is. GOP spokesman Harold Stassen blames the farmer. Senator Taft blames the people, who, he says, eat too much anyway. If only words were pork-chops, the housewife's problem would be over.

* * *

It remains for the Federal Reserve Board, central office that regulates U. S. banks, to come up with a new definition of people who can't get by on their wages. Seems they're "dis-savers"—that it, they spend more than they take in. One out of every four families in the U. S. is a "dis-saver," making up the difference by drawing on savings or borrowing. Its a good trick as long as your credit holds out, but what happens to us "dis-savers" when there's nothing more in the piggy bank? Federal Reserve doesn't say.

* * *

J. Parnell (Feeney) Thomas of the unAmerican Committee is a great hand at unearthing "reds" in unions, government, everywhere. The other day Drew Pearson, syndicated columnist, unearthed some facts about Thomas. Thomas, Pearson charged, put a girl on the government payroll and made her kickback her whole salary to him. Next he put his wife's aged aunt on for the same purpose. Then he tried to keep a friend's son out of the army by saying he was a committee investigator—which he wasn't. And so far, Pearson hasn't been hauled up before Thomas's committee.

* * *

When the big boys get together for their private jam sessions, they often let down the barriers and talk freely among themselves. Such a one is Charles Luckman, president of Lever Bros. (Lifebuoy soap) who told a management gathering: "During 1947, Lever employes gave us a big enough boost in productivity to enable us to simultaneously increase wages 11 cents an hour and to reduce prices by five percent. Oh yes, I almost forgot. The stockholders also made a few extra dollars."

This raises an interesting question. What is the productivity of a Lever Bros. stockholder? Did he cut more coupons per month than ever before? Did he spend an extra 20 percent of effort in taking their stocks out of safety boxes and putting them back again? Or did he really get out and hustle by washing away an extra layer of BO every week?

* * *

Some of our nicest people get into trouble with the tax collector. There's Congressman Kersten, a member of the House Labor Committee that's been badgering the UE, the Fur Workers and others progressive unions. Seems he "forgot" to pay any state taxes at all in 1943, 1944 and 1945. It took a reminder in the local press of Milwaukee to bring him up to date.

* * *

R. J. Reynolds and Co. (Camels cigarettes) is issuing new stock shares and bonds in the amount of $86,000,000. Reynold workers, however, shouldn't get excited. Seems the new stock is being offered to holders of preferred stockholders only and to big investment bankers headed by Dillon, Reed and Co. of New York. No Reynolds worker will be tempted to become a stockholder this time.

* * *

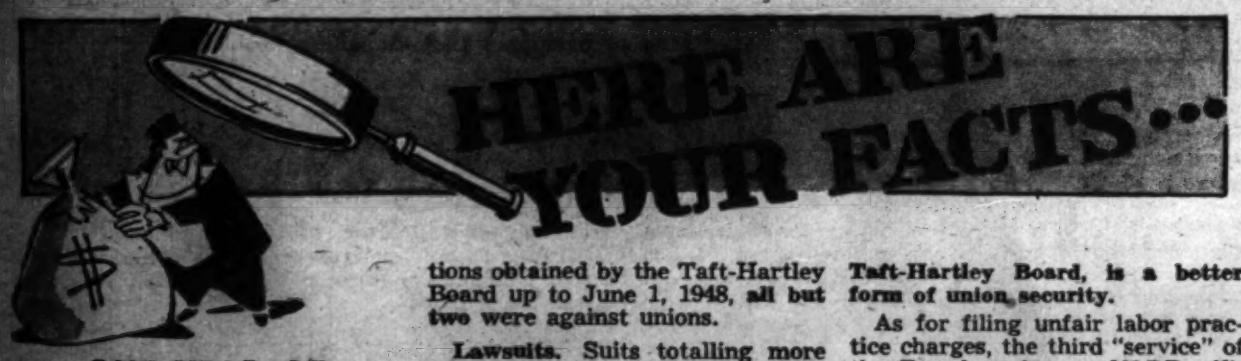
The textile industry is a little worried because stores aren't buying. Factory inventories are piling up despite the fact the plants are operating only three or four days a week. Down in the citrus belt, growers are worried because fruit is piling up. Canneries ran a short season in many areas of California this year because of big holdovers of unsold goods. Somehow it never seems to occur to anyone to lower prices in order to move goods.

* * *

But that would be "communism" or "socialism" at the very least. Didn't the Natl. Real Estate Assn. call the GOP Congress "socialistic" for even holding hearings on low-cost housing?

* * *

Naturally, the housing bill didn't pass.



ONE YEAR OF TAFT-HARTLEY

By Joseph Califf
Research and Education Director

Jut a little over a year ago the Taft-Hartley Act became law.

At the time it was passed, every union in the country condemned it as designed to destroy the labor movement and take away the hard-earned gains which workers have won through their unions. On the other hand, the bosses—the NAM, the Chamber of Commerce and their stooges in the newspapers, on the radio and in Congress—praised Taft-Hartley as a law which would bring "freedom and real benefits" to the American worker.

Who was right? Now that we have a year's experience to look back on and judge from, how has the law actually operated?

The best answer to this question is given in a booklet just issued by the California CIO Council. This pamphlet, entitled **The Taft-Hartley Plot Unfolds**, proves in detail how labor's worst fears and predictions have been realized. With facts and figures, it demonstrates how the law has been used by the bosses, by the NLRB and the Truman Administration to **break** unions, smash strikes, stall organizing and set unions to fighting among themselves.

All the weapons which Taft-Hartley gives to employers have been used against unions. These include:

Strikebreaking. The NLRB and the courts have been used to hamper and break many strikes.

Injunctions. Out of 21 injunctions obtained by the Taft-Hartley Board up to June 1, 1948, **all but two** were against unions.

Lawsuits. Suits totalling more than $15,000,000 were filed against unions in the first seven months of the law.

Unfair labor practice charges against unions. The NLRB has accepted 662 charges against **unions**, while acting on only two percent of the charges filed by unions against employers.

Free Speech for Employers. The bosses' right to campaign against unions has been so extended that "the employer's right of free speech has all but devoured the employee's right of free choice," to quote the CIO News.

Unions which have filed non-communist affidavits and financial reports in order to qualify for the "services" of the Taft-Hartley Board have not escaped the evil effects of the law. "Filing unions have been enjoined, sued, de-certified, raided and red-baited. They have been charged with unfair labor practices. Their picket lines have been cut down; their strikes smashed; their jurisdictions split up."

The "services" which the Board is supposed to give to complying unions include (1) the right to get collective bargaining elections, (2) a procedure for obtaining the union shop, and (3) the right to file unfair labor practice charges against employers. But the record shows that organizing has been stalled under Taft-Hartley. The NLRB is swamped with an enormous backlog of cases. Unions lost 627 elections up to June 1, 1948.

The Taft-Hartley union shop is a fraud. All a union can get after going through the redtape of the NLRB is the right to collect dues. An irrevocable checkoff, which can be won without using the Taft-Hartley Board, is a better form of union security.

As for filing unfair labor practice charges, the third "service" of the Board, a former NLRB official has stated that nothing less than a signed confession will prove an unfair labor practice charge against an employer under the law. As mentioned above, the Board has acted on only two percent of the charges filed by unions against employers. **How** it acted on these charges it doesn't say.

The California CIO's pamphlet shows how the "non-communist" affidavit is an attempt to redbait the entire labor movement and to split and weaken all unions. As an ex-Board official puts it:

"Of course, you and I well know that the people whom the makers of this law are really after aren't just the Communists as such, but all the able, progressive guys holding office in democratic labor unions because they have the guts to fight effectively for the welfare of the membership. They are the lads who are usually called Communists or subversives or what have you."

It is important, too, for workers to see and understand the main underlying purpose of the Taft-Hartley Act and how it fits into the broader plans which its sponsors have laid. The pamphlet explains this in these words:

"The plot does not stop, however, with the creation of company unions, for what the plotters want is not unions at all but 'labor fronts' such as those in Hitler Germany and Mussolini Italy—organizations to hold the workers in line, throttle any attempt to improve wages and working conditions, spy on workers who are dissatisfied and turn them over to the employer to be fired. At the end of the Taft-Hartley trail lies the labor front—and fascism. . . ."

Most important, the pamphlet shows that it is possible to beat the Taft-Hartley Act, and shows how it can be done and has already been done. Unions which have chosen to fight have been able to beat back employer attacks and make gains for their members. The CIO United Electrical Workers, for instance, without benefit of Taft-Hartley elections, added 112,692 previously unorganized workers to its ranks and won contracts in 72 new shops up to June 30, 1948.

The Taft-Hartley Plot Unfolds is required reading for union officers and stewards. Every local union should obtain copies and distribute them among its membership. Copies may be ordered from theFTA National Office. The price is 10 cents each for single copies with lower rates for quantity orders.

Teamsters, Bosses Gang Up

AFL Teamsters agents and their friends, the cannery bosses of northern California, have teamed up again in the attempt to cheat workers out of back pay rightfully due them.

The new evidence of Teamster-boss complicity came when Matthew Tobriner, Teamster lawyer, put another legal stumbling block in the hearings on the cases of 1,300 cannery workers fired by California Processors & Growers, Inc., for union activity three years ago.

The National Labor Relations Board has been stalling since 1945 on FTA's demand that the fired workers be reinstated, but had finally come to a hearing when the Teamster lawyer stepped up to do the bosses' dirty work.

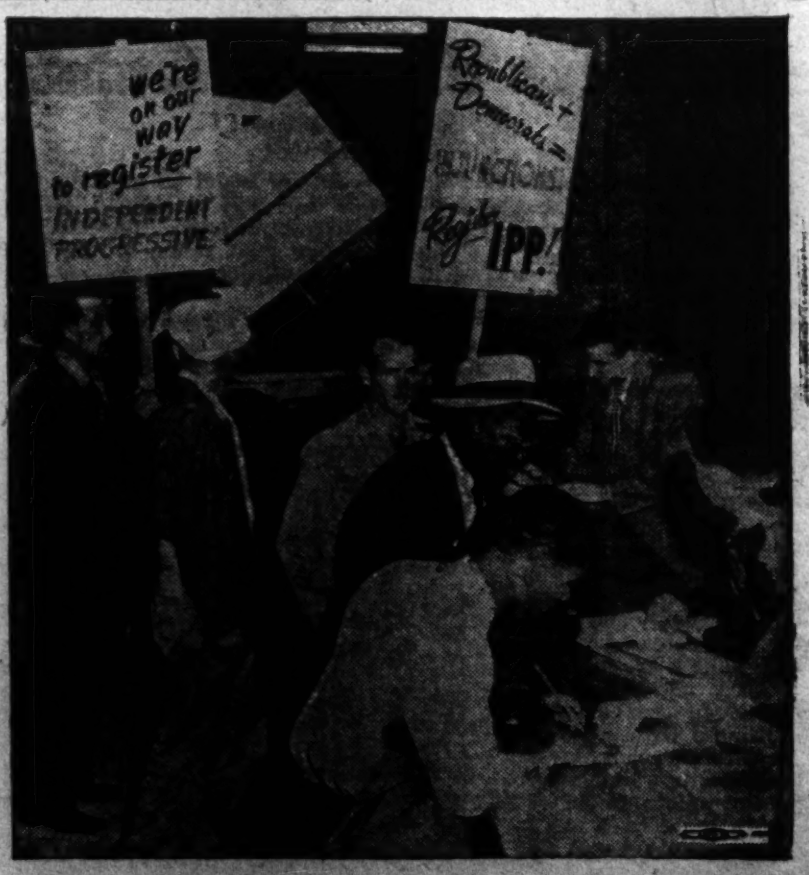
California cannery workers who know the Teamsters well are not surprised at this latest move on behalf of the cannery owners. After all, they point out, there's $500,000 involved—and you wouldn't expect a Teamster agent to let the boss give that up without trying to help.

Wallace Caravan Singers—young people who travel the countryside singing about Henry Wallace's peace and abundance program—here give a lift to FTA strikers at Marvil, Del. As FTA Local 108 President Theodore White (left) looks on, the Wallace group leads the picketline in songs. The singing had its effect on management, apparently, because local leaders were called in "to sit down and talk this over" a few days after the singers arrived.

William Green, president of the AFL, tossed this one off at a convention of the AFL's Electrical Workers the other day:

"One would think that our services in this respect would be recognized and appreciated by the business interests of our nation."

What are the unappreciated services? Fighting "reds" of course, in the labor movement.



Angry Maritime workers in San Francisco line up to register for Henry Wallace's New Party following the 80 day Taft-Hartley post-strike injunction slapped on their unions by Harry Truman. Shipowners are seeking to destroy the union hiring hall, a long established practice in the maritime industry.

Shed workers frolic at FTA Local 78 dinner and dance, held in Watsonville, California. AFL Teamster goons are trying to bust up this union and return the workers to 30 cents an hour and the split hump. By voting "no' on the Taft-Hartley ballot, the shed workers will vote to keep their FTA union that has brought them gains over the past six years of organization.

What Kind of Business? Strikebreaking Business!

Two news items in this week's papers will cause many workers to ask the question—what kind of business are west coast AFL leaders up to, anyway?

Item No. 1: The four and a half month strike of aircraft mechanics at the Boeing plant in Seattle, Wash., was ended this week when 6,000 strikers, acting on a 11 to one union vote to end the walkout, returned to work without a contract.

The company has agreed to hire back strikers, but it insists on the right to keep an estimated 4,000 scabs on the job . . . The strike ran into trouble when Joint Council 28, Intl. Brotherhood of Teamsters (AFL) announced its intention of taking over jurisdiction on warehousemen in the Boeing plant . . .

Item No. 2: Hundreds of striking CIO oil workers were tear-gassed and 12 injured Sept. 12 in Richmond, Calif., in an hour-long attack outside the Standard Oil refinery which started when police—in full battle regalia—attempted to escort AFL maintenance men past the picketline.

About a dozen strikers were injured in the assault. Unionists reported later that one of the gas shells landed in the midst of a group of school children waiting for a bus and that one young boy was knocked down and hurt by a truck carrying AFL maintenance men.

The maintenance men had passes from the Bay Area Metal Trades Council declaring they were not strikebreaking, but just fulfilling their contracts with the oil firm.

What kind of business? Strikebreaking business!

Hit Teamsters As No. 1 Scabs

Teamsters Leader Lauds Scab As 'Real Union Man'

It's been suspected for a long time, but it took a public statement by the President of the Teamsters Union to confirm the fact that he considers the scab the "real union man."

The confirmation came in an editorial in the "Teamster," official organ of the Intl. Brotherhod of Teamsters, AFL which said over the signature of President Dan Tobin:

"Most of the fellows who refuse to go through picketlines are yellow. It takes a real man to go through a picketline when he is ordered to do so by his international union.

"The man who observes the decisions of his superior officers in the union is the real union man. The other fellow is, in most instances, a bunko artist who is looking for a chance to prove how good he is."

That's what the man said.

One of the bitterest attacks ever launched by officials of one union upon those of another has marked relations between the AFL Teamster union and the Intl. Association of Machinists in recent weeks, with the IAM accusing the Teamster officialdom of open strikebreaking and scabbing on IAM members in Seattle, Wash.

The attack came when the Machinists, after months of negotiations, finally struck the Boeing aircraft plant in Seattle, only to see the Teamster agents run scabs through their picketlines in an attempt to take the plant away from the IAM.

It has provoked some of the strongest language in recent U. S. labor memory, and has produced violent attacks on the Teamster union in the IAM paper and at its convention. The dispute is all the more ironical, of course, because of the fact that both the Teamsters and the Machinists union officials were among the first to sign the Taft-Hartley affidavits.

In addition to the IAM, the Washington state AFL has also had harsh words to say about Dave Beck, whose scab-herding activities prompted the state AFL to ask the national Teamsters for Beck's removal "from any and all offices of your international for strike-breaking activities."

And in Seattle itself, one rank and file Teamster named J. K. Paterson was fired from his job on orders of Beck when he refused to go through the Boeing picketline.

When friends of Paterson started a petition to get his job back, Beck blasted them with: "Those who sign commie petitions, either thoughtlessly or carelessly, may one day find themselves under investigation."

Officials of the Machinists union, who have done a good bit of strikebreaking and scab-herding themselves against CIO unions, were unsparing in the bitterness of their attitude toward Beck. Machinists President Harvey Brown wrote to Beck in these words:

"As the Boeing strike drags on, with the company strengthened in its stubbornness by your strikebreaking activities, the entire cause of organized labor on the west coast is being threatened.

"Today, it is well known that you are commandeering representatives from Teamsters locals in the western states, under threat of receivership for locals which refuse to obey, and sending these representatives through our picket lines daily to solicit authorizations and memberships from every strikebreaker in the plant.

"In other words, Mr. Beck, you are organizing behind our picketlines with the knowledge and consent of management."

(Meantime, in New York, Teamsters officials settled a strike of truck drivers at less than one-quarter the original demands, and did so without consulting the rank and file.)

In northern California, where Teamsters officials signed a backdor contract with the California Processors and Growers, Inc., in order to prevent genuine organization of 60,000 cannery workers, 90 percent of the workers were fobbed off with a five cent increase while a favored 10 percent got 15 cents.

The contract, signed by the Teamsters officials and by California Processors and Growers representing the canneries, said nothing whatever about speedup, downgrading (many of the men who got 15 cents suddenly found themselves reclassified—downwards) or other worsening conditions in the industry.

Taft-Hartley 'Purity' Pays Off — In $3,000,000 Lawsuit

Officials of the AFL Teamsters union were among the first in the rush to sign the Taft-Hart'ey law "purity" affidavits when the act became law a year ago.

They explained it at the time as the only means of "protecting" their membership through the use of the "services" of the National Labor Relations Board.

Now the payoff has come to rank and file truck drivers in the Teamsters union of New York. They're being sued — under the Taft-Hartley act—for a total of $3,000,000.00.

The suit came out of a rank and file strike of the New York drivers, who incidentally were not supported officially by other Teamster locals in the city. It alleges that the truck drivers used "coercion and violence" against scabs.

The strike, which began over a 50 cent an hour wage raise, a welfare fund and other proposals, was settled for less than one-quarter of the original demands. The membership was not consulted on the settlement.

Heads I Win, Tails You Lose . . .

It's "heads I win, tails you lose" for unions that put their members' necks in the Taft-Hartley Labor Board noose.

Here's an example: The CIO Oil Workers Union (its officers signed the Taft-Hartley affidavits) ran an election for the right to ask a union shop at a Tulsa, Okla. plant recently. They were sure they'd win in a walk. Thirty-seven workers were involved.

Just before election day, the company fired 10 of the 37. The remaining 27 voted for the union 23 to four. The local thought they'd won by 85 percent . . . but the Labor Board said no, the 10 that were laid off didn't vote and, under the Taft-Hartley law, workers that don't vote for any reason are counted as voting NO.

That's the kind of union shop "election" you get out of the Taft-Hartley law.

'No' Vote Protects Gains

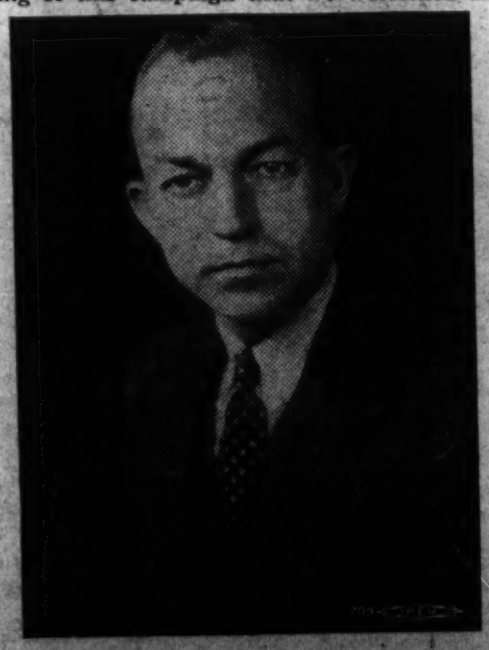
By Donald Henderson
President, FTA-CIO

A 'No' vote on the NLRB ballot in the Local 78 eelction is the only guarantee the workers have that they will be able to keep and expand the gains won over years of struggle through FTA-CIO.

A 'Yes' vote means surrendering your FTA union to the Teamsters, with all that it means in sell-out contracts and worsened conditions.

A 'No' vote is the way to keep your union, FTA-CIO Local 78. A 'Yes' vote is the way to lose your union. Its as simple as that, and already thousands of workers in the West, the Mid-West, and the South have voted 'No' to keep FTA and kick out the Teamsters.

FTA said at the beginning of this campaign that we welcomed an election, even though we were legally entitled to bar it. That is still our opinion. The renegades and turncoats who are trying to destroy the union of packingshed workers will be finally and completely defeated when the ballots are in.



FTA and Local 78 still hold the contract with the Grower-Shippers Association. After the election, and after the complete defeat of the AFL Teamster agents, FTA Local 78 will negotiate a new and still better contract on behalf of the packingshed workers in the SWH area. Remember — a 'No' vote keeps FTA and brings you higher pay.

Two active rank and filers from the lettuce sheds of Salinas and Watsonville, Calif., take the story of an attempted AFL Teamster raid on FTA Local 78 to the California CIO. Seated from left, Loretta Taylor, Salinas, and "Happy" Branham, Watsonville, who are telling CIO's Paul Schlipf (standing) and Henry Schmidt of the ILWU about the winning fight the shed workers are putting up to save their union.